



MINNESOTA FARMERS UNION

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## **Biography: David J. Frederickson**

As president of the 25,000-member Minnesota Farmers Union, David J. Frederickson uses the understanding he gained as a fourth-generation family farmer and state legislator to represent rural communities and the people who live there.

Frederickson grew up on a family farm in the western Minnesota community of Murdock. He earned a bachelor's degree in Education from St. Cloud State University and taught special education for eight years before he returned in 1974 to operate his family's farm with Kay, his wife, and two daughters.

From 1986 to 1992, Frederickson served in the Minnesota Senate. During his six-year tenure as a state senator, Frederickson served as vice-chairperson of the Taxes and Tax Laws Committee and vice-chairperson of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee and was chairperson of its Rural Development Subcommittee. In addition, he served on the Education Committee, its Education Funding Division and the Governmental Operations Committee.

Because of Frederickson's efforts to pass legislation designed to promote new markets for agricultural products, ethanol has become a primary rural development tool in Minnesota.

His commitment to rebuilding and strengthening rural communities continues today as president of the Minnesota Farmers Union.

He serves on the National Farmers Union Board of Directors and chairs its Budget Committee; is a member of the U.S. Agency for International Development's Food Security Advisory Committee; and serves as chairman of Farmers Union Enterprises Inc.

Frederickson also is president and chief operating officer of Minnesota Farmers Union Service Corp., a for-profit entity of the MFU that operates a full-service travel agency; provides management services for Green View Inc., a company that performs maintenance of Minnesota's rest areas, state parks and other municipal facilities; and provides Internet design and hosting services for a variety of national clients.

## **Background: Minnesota Farmers Union**

We're proud of the "farmers" in our name, but the interests and concerns of the Minnesota Farmers Union go well beyond those of traditional agricultural or commodity groups. Since 1929 and continuing today, Farmers Union works through its grassroots membership to improve health care, education, transportation, the environment and social justice for all people. And – whether you're a farmer or consumer, urban or rural – the organization advocates farm policies that deliver a safe and abundant food supply while providing family farmers with a fair price from the marketplace – not the government.

Our headquarters are in St. Paul, and there are Farmers Union organizations in each of Minnesota's agricultural counties. The MFU is part of the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America. Nearly a century old, this federation of 24 state organizations known as the National Farmers Union represents the concerns of rural America and the people who live there.

Farmers Union works to inform its members through publications and educational programs. The organization helps state and federal policy-makers understand and recognize the needs of rural citizens. Farmers Union takes an active role in building cooperative businesses that put people and their communities first.

Members on the state and national levels set Farmers Union's policies and goals. This grassroots governing concept ensures that the real interests of family farm agriculture and rural America remain foremost in the activity and action that is Farmers Union.